

CLAIMS

1. A plug-in module frame having at least one socket (2), at which at least one signal contact (7, 16) for passing an information signal between the plug-in module frame (1) and a plug-in module (3) adapted to be mounted at socket (2) is formed, a protocol converter (9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17) having first and second terminals, for receiving an information signal encoded according to the first protocol from signal contact (7) at the first terminal and transmitting the information signal converted to a second protocol at the second terminal and/or for receiving the information signal encoded according to a second protocol at said second terminal and transmitting the information signal converted to the first protocol at the first terminal, wherein the socket (3) comprises type detecting means for detecting a characteristic of a plug-in module (3) mounted in the socket (2), which is unambiguously associated to a protocol supported by the plug-in module (3), and the protocol converter (9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17) which is connected to the type detecting means and supports a plurality of first protocols is adapted to use, at its first terminal, a protocol encoded by the detected characteristic of plug-in module (3).

2. The plug-in module frame of claim 1, comprising a plurality of sockets (2), wherein the protocol converter (9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17) comprises a plurality of converter units (12, 15), each of which supports only a subset of the first protocols supported by the protocol converter (9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17) and a switching means (10, 11, 14, 17) for connecting the signal contact (7, 16) of a socket (2) to the one of the converter units (12, 15) which supports the protocol detected by the type detecting means of the concerned socket (2).

3. The plug-in module frame of claim 1 or 2, wherein the type detecting means comprises means for addressing and reading a storage component (8).
4. The plug-in module frame of one of the preceding claims, wherein the mechanical characteristics of the socket (2) are designed for receiving a SFP module (3).
5. A plug-in module (3) for inserting in a plug-in module frame (1) according to one of the preceding claims, comprising a type encoding device (8) which interacts with the type detecting means and encodes a protocol which is supported by the plug-in module (3).
6. The plug-in module of claim 5, wherein the type encoding means is an electronic read-only memory (8).
7. The plug-in module of claim 5 or 6, having the mechanical characteristics of a SFP-plug-in module.